

A-list celebs among 38 in auditions for hosts, judges in RP 'Idol'

Opus Dei asks 'Da Vinci' film makers to stress movie work of fiction



RP now world's top exporter of nurses; POEA restricts pilots

Sen. Lapid tagged lobbying for P300-M interchange in Porac, Pampanga

Bunye's 2 wishes for Erap: Good health, good looks



By Nelson F. Flores, Christine O. Aranda and Liza A. del Puerto

TWO BIRTHDAY BOYS, four wishes. A former President Joseph Estrada could have two wishes as he

email: baddad@inquirer.com.ph



Wednesday, April 19, 2006

4 sections / Vol. 21 / No. 130 P18

www.inquirer.com

UN honors RP soldier who was killed in Haiti

By Valt Contreras

IT'S RAINING MEDALS FOR PHILIPPINE TROOPS as peacekeeping missions abroad. First, the United Nations is giving posthumous honors to a very brave soldier, a Filipino soldier, who was killed in a firefight in Haiti on April 14 last year. The Department of Foreign Affairs announced yesterday.

USA HONORS (A1)

Chop-chop slays in Saudi

10 Filipinos held; body parts found

By Valt Contreras

AT LEAST 10 FILIPINOS have been held by Saudi police following the discovery of dismembered bodies and the disappearance of six of their compatriots in southern Jeddah, according to the Department of Foreign Affairs.

The arrested Filipinos were being kept incommunicado by investigators and could remain so for up to 60 days under Saudi law, the DFA said yesterday as it withheld the identities of the suspects and that of the missing Filipinos.

The reports and the missing persons were initially described in the report as being related to "illegal lottery, like jockeying, financed by some Arabs and some Filipinos" as well as in the "bull phone-card business," he said.

"Baka naghi-conduct (They might have scammed each other)," the official noted.

Two of the six missing Filipinos were women and included a couple, he added. It also appeared that the missing persons knew each other.

CHOP-CHOP A20



FATCHES OF GREEN

This mangrove forest somewhere near Hinilang and Isopacan in Southern Leyte is always a refreshing sight in our time of vanishing forest cover and endangered underwater life forms.

Lawyer tags Abalos poll fraud brains

By Cynthia D. Salinas and Jerome Aring

AN ELECTION LAWYER OF THE OPPOSITION will file an impeachment case against Commission on Elections Chair Benigno Aquino for allegedly allowing former Justice Commission Rodrigo Gonzales to engage in vote-rigging during the May 2004 elections.

Because the Commission is a constitutional body, its chair and commissioners can be removed from office only through impeachment.

Ateneo Filinvest, counsel for former

LAWYER A11

NO GANG RAPE IN SUBIC

Gonzalez: I almost exonerated them

By Armand N. Nicon and Valt Contreras

JUSTICE SECRETARY RUEL GONZALEZ had wanted to clear three of four US Marines in the rape of a 22-year-old Filipino last November but decided against it, facing a public backlash.

"I almost exonerated them. But I didn't, if only to satisfy the mob," Gonzalez told reporters.

And so, instead of facing rape charges as principals, Marine Lance Corporal Keith Sillars and Sergeant

Deplante and 1st Sgt. Chad Carpenter would be charged as accessories to the Nov. 1, 2005, incident at the Subic Bay Prospect. They face from 6 to 12 years' imprisonment if convicted.

The main suspect, however, Lance Cpl. Daniel Smith, would be charged with rape for allegedly sexually abusing the victim inside a van while on his way to the shore of a joint RP-US cooperation exercise in the Philippines.

Rape has a maximum penalty of life imprisonment. Gonzalez said he decided to include

Sillars, Deplante and Carpenter, who were in the van when the alleged rape happened, as accessories because they did nothing to stop Smith.

"The fact is that they knew what was going on... and yet they did nothing. That makes them accessories," he said.

Gonzalez said he also gave weight to the admission of the victim that it was only Smith who actually committed the sexual assault.

"There was no gang rape. It is impossible to gang rape the victim in 30 min."

CONTRERAS A20

RP braces for shock as oil hits \$71 per barrel

By Christine O. Aranda and Abigail L. Ho

THE GOVERNMENT IS LOOKING AT measures like increasing the public's access to ethanol and rice-based and expanding the number of gas stations offering a FI discount on diesel fuel to public utility vehicles to cushion the impact of escalating world oil prices on Filipino consumers.

Energy Secretary Raphael Luyten said Cabinet officials expanded yesterday this mitigating measures put in place last year "in order to address the resurgence of high oil prices in the international market."

SP BRACES A1

Spain lauds GMA for commuting death sentences

Rep. Astasio: I was a death row convict

By Michael Llan Ulan

CLAIMING THAT PRESIDENTIAL clemency saved his life, a former death row inmate, Galocan Rep. Luis "Budy" Astasio, supports the decision of President Macapagal-Arroyo to commute all death sentences to life imprisonment.

"I was a death row convict before I became a congressman," Astasio told death row reporter Anchoy Tirona in an on-camera telephone call from Los Angeles. He added that he once served in the infamous but privileged role of a prison "mayer" (cell block leader) during martial law. Astasio also confirmed the existence



BLIND-SOUND: Larnagins in 1999 or board's boss from Cebu to Manila and set to death row.

By Valt Contreras and Jonathan K. Uy

WHEN IS THE PHILIPPINE GOVERNMENT to lead President Macapagal-Arroyo for her controversial leader sentence commencing all death sentences to life terms.

The Spanish foreign ministry has thanked Ms. Arroyo for stopping the execution of Francisco "Paco" Javier Larnagins Gonzalez, who was sentenced along with six others of the 1987 rapist-murder of victim Marjorie and Josefine Chiong to President Macapagal-Arroyo's decision to commute all death sentences to life terms.

By Jhonatan Napoles and PDI (Spain) Bureau

CERU CITY—DENIED WAS THE reaction of the member of rape-victim Marjorie and Josefine Chiong to President Macapagal-Arroyo's decision to commute all death sentences to life terms.

story on this page.)

Larnagins, a victim of the politically motivated Cebu case of Cebu, is a dual citizen with a Spanish father (former prisoner Manuel Francisco Larnagins) and Filipino mother (Marjorie Gonzalez), according to Department of Foreign Affairs, which released the victim's statement yesterday.

The Spanish government is pleased with the measure of commuting the death penalty by the president of the Philippines, which will benefit [Paco Larnagins], the DFA said in a

SPAIN A20

But Thelma Chiong, national vice president of the Crusade Against Violence (CAV), said she was not surprised. She said she had known the President's position on the death penalty for a year now, and that she respected the decision.

Thelma and the victim asked Ms. Arroyo

NO PARDON A21

IN THE KNOW

Why oil prices are rising

OIL PRICES RECENTLY HIT HISTORICAL highs due to increasing worries over a supply shortage and the conflict in Iraq. Analysts over the last 18 months' progress and the anticipated increase in demand in the United States during the summer months. In Nigeria, military demands that locals get more benefits from their country's average wealth have resulted in destroying activities and disrupting foreign oil workers. Their actions, which started in mid-February, have already cut Nigerian production by more than 25 percent. Nigeria is Africa's leading oil exporter and the world's eighth largest.

WWT A2

RSBS CASE VS GENERAL

Prosecutor bucks justice's inhibition

By Robert F. Iones

A GERMAN-BOY PROSECUTOR has opposed the motion filed by former Armed Forces of the Philippines lieutenant and separatist leader Francisco "Bongbong" Pang, Gen. Jose Ramel (ret.) asking that a habeas corpus petition be granted from behind the former's guilt, evade and defraud the case due to his

incompetence.

According to the motion filed by his lawyer, Cecilia Ramirez-Garcia, on April 4 pointed out that Pangbong was treated to that Caroline G. Hernandez, a member of the Philippine Commission who had reportedly recommended the "incompetence" of all the accused to the 10-10-10.

The Philippine Commission profiled the 1000 (1000) cases assigned by justice with no effect, among other things, corruption in the military establishment, including the AFP (AFP).

"In the interest of justice," Hernandez, the immediate justice, is disqualified from presiding over the instant case.

Notwithstanding the effect of their present relationship, it is the very least, to ensure the integrity of the justice system and to ensure the independence and integrity of the courts, as well as the rule of law, the motion is filed for an immediate judge, and to ensure the independence of the justice system.

But Pangbong argued that the motion is merely a way to ensure the independence of the justice system, and to ensure the independence of the justice system, and to ensure the independence of the justice system.

"What is more troubling is the fact that of the 10-10-10, only

Ramela was the one to be the

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"What is more troubling is the fact that of the 10-10-10, only

CORRECTIONS

IN THE APRIL 12 issue, a photo caption on the front page incorrectly stated that Martin Arzola, is the chair of the National Anti-Corruption Commission, according to the NACC director, President Macapagal-Arroyo in its chair. NACC's lead attorney on secretary general in Don Zamarillo. Arzola is a member of the national council of people's representatives, which is working with the government.

IN THE APRIL 12 issue, a photo caption on the front page incorrectly stated that Liza Liza (Liza) died 11 years ago. Liza Liza was the first child of Liza Liza. Liza Liza was the first child of Liza Liza. Liza Liza was the first child of Liza Liza.

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An Appeal to Our People: Actively Participate in the Discussions on Charter Change

MAKE YOUR VOICE BE HEARD.

Charter Change will dramatically, if not drastically, change our form of government. But it won't guarantee a better government. It doesn't guarantee national unity. Nor a better life for most Filipinos.

Instead of a President, as we have now, we will have a Prime Minister. Instead of the President, our leader, being elected directly by the people, the Prime Minister (PM) will be elected by our congressmen who will now be called Members of Parliament (MPs). The PM himself will be a congressman or MP first before being elected PM.

In other words, the people will lose their power to choose their leader directly in a nationwide popular vote.

The present Senate will be absorbed into the Interim Parliament.

The Executive (what we now call the President) and the Legislature (what we now call Congress) will be virtually one and the same.

IS THIS WHAT THE PEOPLE WANT?

Yet, up to 12 million signatures are being gathered by Cha-Cha proponents to push Charter Change. This is what is called the People's Initiative. It is being used to amend the Constitution wholesale, instead of piece by piece as people's initiative is commonly and *legally* intended to be.

This is why the Consumer & Oil Price Watch is making this appeal to the people.

**Make your voice be heard. Make the true will of the people prevail.
Make our democracy work. For your future. For the people.**

The Cha-Cha proponents want the people to vote on the following, using a single question:

1. **Shift from the Presidential to Parliamentary form of government.** The present Congress, 236 congressmen and those senators who want to join, will be converted into an Interim Parliament until June 30, 2007. The Interim Parliament will set the date of the first Parliamentary election to choose the regular members of the regular Parliament in 2010.
2. **The incumbent President, Gloria Macapagal-Arroyo, and incumbent Vice-President, Noli de Castro, will hold office until June 30, 2010 but their roles will be ceremonial as the powers will rest with the Prime Minister and the interim members of the parliament.**
3. **After 2010, the most powerful person will be the Prime Minister.** The PM shall appoint the members of the Supreme Court, Justices and Judges of the lower courts. The PM shall be the Commander-in-Chief of the Armed Forces of the Philippines with the rank of Brigadier General or Commodore. The chairman and commissioners of the Comptroller, Civil Service Commissions, and Commission on Audit shall also be appointed by the PM.
4. **Within 10 years after the approval of Cha-Cha, a federal system of government shall be established.** The parliament shall provide by law the division of the country into as many "independent states", allocating uniform powers and reserving to the federal government powers on national defense, foreign relations, monetary policies, and other such powers deemed imperative.

IS THIS WHAT THE PEOPLE WANT?

We reiterate our appeal to the people. Make your voice be heard.

- A. Do you agree with the 4 transitory amendments stated above?

- ☐ YES, I agree
☐ NO, I do not agree

- B. Do you want elections to be held for ALL elective officials under the parliamentary system?

- ☐ YES, I want elections to be held in May 2007
☐ YES, I want elections to be held in May 2010

Send your answers to our Special Cha-Cha Information Hotline numbers.
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Tax take up 28% for first quarter

By Michelle P. Bono

THE INCREASE IN INTERNAL REVENUE COLLECTED FOR THE FIRST QUARTER OF THE YEAR 2005 WAS 28 PERCENT HIGHER THAN THE FIRST QUARTER OF THE YEAR 2004.

The 2005 increase in internal revenue collection for the first quarter of the year by 2.7 percent, according to the Bureau of Internal Revenue (BIR), is the highest since the start of the year.

Enhanced system

Revenue authorities attributed the increase in collection to the enhanced system of the BIR, including the enhanced tax collection system.

President Macapagal-Arroyo, in a statement, said the first quarter collection of the BIR also showed a 50 percent increase in the collection of the BIR.

Thus, higher 2005 collections made the government contribute to meeting its budget targets.

In 2004, the BIR also announced plans to reduce its budget deficit to only P12.5 billion from P14.5 billion last year.

Deficit reduction

To help meet the budget deficit, the BIR is seeking to collect P12.5 billion for the whole year.

Fiscal officials said the BIR's first quarter collection target is on track to meet its full-year revenue collection target.

The President also said that the improved economic performance of the Bureau of Internal Revenue (BIR) is the second largest revenue source for the government.

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More anti-GMA Pinoys favor Cha-cha, says survey

By Cyril L. Boudreau, Christine T. Aguirre and TJ Bugarin

PHILIPPINE NEWS RELEASES PRESIDENT Macapagal-Arroyo's reelection would be good for the country since constitutional term limits mean that those who believe the country would fare best if it was stopped, according to the results of a new survey by Pulse Asia.

Pulse Asia executive Maria Taguiguis said a national poll conducted from Feb. 14 to March 4 showed that 59 percent of Filipinos thought it would be best if the President resigned, and 46 percent of that number also voted all the 1987 Constitution changed.

But of the 54 percent of Filipinos who wanted Macapagal-Arroyo to stay, only 38 percent favored Cha-cha change. Taguiguis added:

In total, 27 percent of Filipinos

wanted both Cha-cha and the President's resignation, while 11 percent wanted Cha-cha and not her stay.

Of those who wanted the President to resign, 46 percent were in favor of Cha-cha change. Given the survey's strict margin of three percentage points, this means there is a statistical tie between the anti-GMA who favor Cha-cha and the anti-GMA who opposed it in Cha-cha.

On the other hand, pro-GMA Filipinos who favored Cha-cha (38 percent) were outnumbered by the pro-GMA who disagreed with it (54 percent).

The results of the survey were released at the National Council of Churches in the Philippines (NCPP), an umbrella organization of various Protestant denominations, added to notes to the growing opposition to the Macapagal-Arroyo move to amend the Constitution through a people's initiative.

What good would a change to the Constitution do when the process is clearly wrapped in the agenda of those who want to further perpetuate themselves in power, including President Arroyo who is being served as leader (over) the legitimacy of her rule?" the NCPP said in a statement titled "Not at This Time, Not for the Wrong Reasons."

The NCPP said it shared the position of the Catholic Bishops' Conference of the Philippines, which had earlier stated since over the timing and manner of the proposed shift that parliamentarians were wrong.

"We will continue our best prayers for one that will free this country from its current state of corruption, ill-governance and the erosion of the Filipino people," it added.

Like the Catholic bishops, the Protestants said they were not against constitutional reform but were concerned that it was being done "in a time when the government of a more authoritarian side seems to have in the forefront."

Meanwhile, the signs of the struggle in Filipino government are continuing to grow, according to a surveying a public information campaign on Cha-cha change in all of the country's 40,000 barangays to enable people to make an "informed choice."

In the same statement, the Charter Change Advisory Council

added:

(AACC)

said it would continue to

engage to-day with

a three-

day initiative in Mindanao, where the Confederation of Mindanao Governors and Mayors headed by both Catholic Governor Florentino Batac and Mayor

Arroyo had already announced its support. At least 13 provinces led by Majority Leader Francis Pangilinan are considering their own information drive to raise public awareness of the issues involved in having the Constitution amended.

Pangilinan kicked off the province's campaign in a meeting with local officials in General Santos and Davao cities last Monday.

"To us that we support Cha-cha change, but we support the manner in which they are proposing how we are to introduce it," Pangilinan told reporters at the launch ceremony.

In his talk with local officials, the senator said he learned that the administration claims that the change for Cha-cha change is the constitution was overhauling with bicameralism.

"Contrary to what they are saying, the people in General Santos, Zamboanga and other parts of the country don't know where the change for Cha-cha change is coming from," he said.

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Court grants Beltran plea for transfer to another hospital

By Tara V. Quinsanda
and Liza A. del Puerto

DEFENDANT PARTIES LASTED FOR OVER 10 HOURS, secured a partial legal victory after a Manila court granted his appeal to be moved to a hospital of his choice provided he should not be released, said the Philippine National Police said yesterday that it would allow the transfer to a more secure hospital.

Beltran, 71, has been held at the PNP General Hospital in Camp Cramer since he was arrested on suspicion of being the leader of President Gloria Arroyo's political party, the Philippine National Police said yesterday. Beltran's lawyers' petition for the dismissal of charges against him, the ruling allowing Beltran to move to another hospital was based last night.

"The judge was giving him the chance for him to undergo a thorough check-up at his own expense. But before he could be released, we will have to submit a written statement detailing where he would be transferred and what kind of treatment he would undergo," said Amilyn Sano, one of Beltran's lawyers.

The defense lawyers had asked the court to allow his transfer to a better-equipped medical facility, saying he and his doctors feared an assassin's attack he suffered last year in light of his alleged association with Arroyo.

"It does not appear that the court, the Philippine National Police will yield and give their order," said PNP spokesman Senior Sgt. General Peralta. He added that Beltran would remain under police custody if the court's order simply involved a transfer to another medical facility.

In a statement issued by Beltran's office, the legislature said he hoped that the court would dismiss the "harassment and arbitrary" charges filed against him by the Department of Justice.



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THE DAILY GOSPEL

Wednesday, April 19, 2006
Gospel of Luke, Chapter 10

For Reading: Luke 10:1-17

Gospel: Luke 10:1-17

The Gospel of Luke was written in the early 60s AD, a village in the north of Italy. It was written for the Roman Emperor Nero, who was the first emperor to persecute Christians. It was written for the Roman Emperor Nero, who was the first emperor to persecute Christians.

In Luke 10, Jesus sends out 70 disciples to preach the Gospel in the towns and villages around them. They are to go in pairs, and to wear sandals, and to take with them a staff, and a bag, and a pair of shoes, and a change of clothes.

They are to go in pairs, and to wear sandals, and to take with them a staff, and a bag, and a pair of shoes, and a change of clothes. They are to go in pairs, and to wear sandals, and to take with them a staff, and a bag, and a pair of shoes, and a change of clothes.

It is now the third day since the death of Jesus. It is now the third day since the death of Jesus. It is now the third day since the death of Jesus. It is now the third day since the death of Jesus.

For send to them, "Now that you are, have the message of the Gospel. It is now the third day since the death of Jesus. It is now the third day since the death of Jesus. It is now the third day since the death of Jesus.

At the time when the village they were heading for, Jesus said to the 70 disciples, "Now that you are, have the message of the Gospel. It is now the third day since the death of Jesus. It is now the third day since the death of Jesus. It is now the third day since the death of Jesus.

They immediately set out and returned to Jerusalem. They immediately set out and returned to Jerusalem. They immediately set out and returned to Jerusalem. They immediately set out and returned to Jerusalem.

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RP, Korea to mark 55th year of Battle of Yuldong

THE PHILIPPINES AND SOUTH KOREA WILL mark on Saturday the 55th anniversary of the "Battle of Yuldong," the most famous of the many victories won by the United Nations forces during the Korean War (1950-53).

South Korean Ambassador Hong Sang-ho said a 10-page magazine commemorating the Philippine Army will be the guest of honor during the 7 a.m. event at the Living Heritage Museum. They will be joined by veterans belonging to the five American Combat Teams (ACT) that captured the Philippine Expeditionary Force in Korea (PEF) from 7,500 Filipino soldiers serving during the 1950-53 war.

The Philippines suffered some 700 causalities in helping save South Korea from going to communist North Korea and China.

About 1,000 these soldiers were awarded in the 1950s, including those by the 1st ABCT, the first Filipino unit to fight in the Korean War. The

50th anniversary of the 1950-53 war will be the result of the Chinese 12th Army in a surprise night attack on the PEF base at Yuldong.

Chinese soldiers were killed during the 1950-53 war. The 12th Army was killed during the 1950-53 war. The 12th Army was killed during the 1950-53 war.

An account of the Philippine participation in the Korean War can be found in new government books, a volume written by Air Vice Marshal, one of the late Korean War veterans, John Villanueva.

Philippine troops will be the officers of the PEF, Philippine Expeditionary Force (PEF) led by its commander, Brig. Gen. William Carlos G. P. in the only association of Philippine Forces War veterans, less than 1,000 who remain alive today.

Major Yung Yung, president of PEF, 1st ABCT chapter, will deliver the welcome address. Veterans, their families and South

Koreans will be guests at the graves of 500 soldiers killed in the Korean War.

The Battle of Yuldong took place between the forces of Capt. General Yung and 1st ABCT, June 1950. The two officers who died in the battle, Yung and General Yung, were killed in the battle of Yuldong.

General Yung was killed in the battle of Yuldong. General Yung was killed in the battle of Yuldong.

General Yung was killed in the battle of Yuldong. General Yung was killed in the battle of Yuldong.

General Yung was killed in the battle of Yuldong. General Yung was killed in the battle of Yuldong.

Filipino war veteran sues US for benefits

THE FIRST EVER complaint of a Filipino World War II veteran for unpaid benefits as a soldier under US command has been filed in the US Court of Federal Claims against the government of the United States.

Rodriguez S. Ramos, a veteran of the US Army, had previously been awarded the long wait for US legislation to correct the Veterans' Benefits Act of 1948, which deprived Filipino soldiers who fought alongside American troops of equal benefits and privileges.

Ramos, now 68, fought as a combatant and later as a medic during the WWII. Later, he returned to the US Army and the war in Korea.

Using the collection of 14 volumes of presidential proclamations, orders, and executive orders relating to the payment of salary, allowances and privileges, Ramos asked that the Department of Veterans Affairs grant him pay back in the amount representing the difference between what he actually received during World War II and what was provided by the primary law in the subsequent years.

Ramos also demanded that he be recognized as a US citizen by law since he was born in the Philippines during the period that the Philippines was a United States possession.

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Seangyong 1.7 1.7 1.7 1.7	1,100,000	1,100,000	1,100,000	1,100,000	1,100,000

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Founded 1601

RP braces for shock ...

By Joseph A. ...

Oil prices broke new ground above \$71 a barrel on Monday evening, as mounting tensions over Iran nuclear activities, fears of US gasolin shortages and rapid economic growth in China (See the Asian Focus).

Brent North Sea crude closed at \$71.46 a barrel. That was up 89 cents from Thursday's closing level in London, and just off a new high reached earlier Monday at \$71.52.

In New York, light sweet crude for May delivery slipped \$1.06 from Thursday to close at \$70.40 a barrel, setting levels not seen since last summer.

Crisis in Iran had been a recent in New York of \$70.81 on Aug. 28, after Hurricane Ivan hit the Gulf of Mexico.

Oil prices hit the four-month high last price in the country, edged to a record high of \$64.7 a barrel on Monday, leaving the April average at \$62.36 from \$61.82 in March.

Unleaded gasoline is now sold at \$33.50 a gallon, according to \$35.40 a barrel, according to Manila.

Prices to persist for a month

"While we are hoping that this will be a temporary phenomenon, immediate action is required to ensure that the supply of oil will persist for a month or two longer," the energy secretary said.

In a statement, the Department of Energy (DOE) said President Maanagil-Ayala had ordered government agencies to look for ways to make the supply of oil prices more flexible for Filipinos.

The DOE is pushing oil firms to increase the number of gas stations offering 91-octane diesel discounts in the public transport sector. In present, there are 546 gasoline stations across the country that offer such discounts, including 194 in Metro Manila, 49 in Northern Luzon, 39 in Eastern Luzon, 23 in the Visayas and 4 in Mindanao.

Other measures

Other ongoing measures include:

- Promoting the use of savings (SPG) among taxi drivers and private vehicles to use more gasoline to offset the cost.

- Reducing, especially the import of oil, shipped on crude and refined petroleum products.

- Planting oil seedlings whose seeds can be used as fuel.

Maanagil-Ayala has ordered the Philippine National Oil Corp. (PNOC) to go ahead to enter into joint ventures with military camps in order to promote the planting of oilseedlings.

PNOC, which is a government-owned company, has also received P1.8 million for planting oilseedlings in government reservations.

The Philippine Petroleum Project, being undertaken in cooperation with the United Nations Petroleum Corporation (UNPC), is also working to increase the production of the oilseedlings in the Philippines.

Substitute for diesel

PNOC, DOE and the plant's 27 percent oil content could be used as a substitute for diesel fuel.

In talks, the incinerator plant will be placed in a 5-hectare property in Subic Bay, Negros Occidental.

Latila and the President also directed the Departments of Energy, the Bureau of Science and Technology, and the Department of Education to conduct the research guidelines for the incinerator of ethanol, a fuel that has superior, more to consume as raw materials.

"We must, in some way, ethanol can also bring down the pump price of gasoline when it is blended with gasoline," the energy secretary said.

In long-term the country's bio-ethanol program, the President on July 22, 2008, in a Executive Order No. 490, which would reduce the tariff on bio-ethanol imports from 18 percent to only 1 percent.

Control by the oil restriction on bio-ethanol imports may be used for the government's Fuel Efficient Program, as duly certified by the DOE.

Since the issuance of the EO, however, the government has yet to issue the implementing rules and regulations.

Latila had previously been expected to start on 2007.

Compressed natural gas

Latila and the Cabinet also agreed to review further the provisions of the proposed law to determine incentives that can be

given to vehicles, which can run on gasoline

blended with 15 percent ethanol.

Another alternative proposed had that the government is pushing to implement natural gas (CNG).

The DOE said the Cabinet must take the steps to proceed with the commercial expansion of its auto-daughter stations in the country.

Latila's team continued to press that Philippine Exploration (PE) and Philippine Shell Petroleum Corp. (PSPC) must start commercial operations of their auto-daughter CNG refilling stations, based on the two firms' own assessments.

While Maanagil-Ayala, DOE, energy utilization and management bureau (DEMR), and other said that the bill group should return by the end of the month a draft report that would pave the way for the start of operations of CNG fuel stations on the Batangas-Manda Bagoan route.

He noted that the DOE had already completed its own inspection of Shell's auto-daughter CNG refilling station, but it had yet to

secure a refund report from the Shell Group.

The results of Shell's own tests on the auto-daughter stations, which would have to be submitted to the DOE for compliance, were crucial to the start of commercial operations, he said.

Maanagil-Ayala also ordered PEMC to explore alternative arrangements with other private investors for the construction of additional auto-daughter stations.

Cost-cutting

In the power sector, the government, through the National Power Corp., would be implementing programs to cut energy, measure, with particular emphasis on using low-cost power plants and shifting to those that use oil, such as hydro, geothermal and natural gas.

In the March 5-11 period, the country's generation mix showed an increase in use of renewable energy at 26 percent in Luzon, 40.3 percent in the Visayas, and 43 percent in Mindanao. With a report from AFP.

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Why oil prices ...

But, which announced last week that it had reached a tentative agreement to power its own, and it would continue to phase in its own program, raising issues as to why it had an oil shock. Concern over a possible US military action on Iran, the Organization of Petroleum Exporting Countries' (OPEC) annual supply program, will lead to a major disruption in world supply.

Global crude oil production is barely keeping up with the growing global demand, to the extent that the world's second largest oil producer, Saudi Arabia, is now the world's largest oil exporter. The world's second largest oil producer, Saudi Arabia, is now the world's largest oil exporter. The world's second largest oil producer, Saudi Arabia, is now the world's largest oil exporter.

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Oh, Woman

LETTERS

I WANT TO EXPRESS MY REGRET
over our last month's (March) fe-
ture, "The Woman—with perspective
and memory."

I have had women write into
me? By creation, when I have
had no one to talk to about her
one at the beauty that God had
bestowed on her, so I have to
be happy of praise that her song to
his Creator, to share his offerings
of gratitude for the gifts that God
had bestowed on her, to become
pious, pious, often, (singing
her, God said: "It is not good for
me to be alone." So while I have
said, he created a rib—the first
woman from her side—and
nearly named her, "Woman, the
creature of the Creator with the
command, "Go and multiply."

I've all parts of the body who
did God know the rib? Because
the rib was the heart—the heart
which springs forth profound
understanding, understanding, passion,
sensitivity, sensitivity, sensitivity,
compassion and unconditional
love present in most women, with
a heart completely open.

In the "Good old days" women
stood up to all things, things,
things. She needed a man to lean
on—Man.

Nowadays, women are begin-
ning to want their God given au-
thority—no man to lean on any
more. Women, women of today

are slowly
reversing
their position of the law to pro-
tect our daughters, women,
mothers, mothers from
being harmed, sexually abused
and exploited as women to en-
joy sexually, their reward is
greater to be with him on earth.

The most telling woman that
created the first and most beau-
tiful in creation is the biblical story
of two women who stood be-
hind him with a false bay
woman. Each claimed she was
the mother of the child, after he
was in the, the king ordered
the child to be cut into two parts,
so that each may have a portion of
the child. One woman, the end
of the child, "O my lord, give her
the living child. Do not kill him." The
other said: "Let him be neither
mine nor yours. Break him." So
the king ordered the child to be
cut into two parts, so that each
may have a portion of the child.
One woman, the end of the child,
"O my lord, give her the living
child. Do not kill him." The other
said: "Let him be neither mine
nor yours. Break him." So the
king ordered the child to be cut
into two parts, so that each may
have a portion of the child.

God is blessing. God is blessing
women in this world, but, as
remember, the law of the Lord is the
beginning of wisdom.

—BARBARA L. LEE

Helpless vs overpricing drugstores but not against political dissidents

I WROTE REPLYING TO
self, 10 years ago, I com-
plained about the overpricing
of drugs in the United States. A
local drugstore had sold me an
aspirin for \$1.00. I was
overpriced by 100 percent. I was
terribly shocked, but the
experience of Florida was not
and could not do anything about it
except to ask the drugstore to
give me a refund, which I did.

On April 5, 2009, I wrote three
columns of the American Inquirer
at another local drugstore for \$2.00.
Understandably, I simplified
the medicine, together with the
price, except for that, just
that—the whole reason I was
able to take the medicine that day
in the following morning, April 6.

2009, I purchased six capsules
of Aspirin for \$2.00. I was
overpriced by 100 percent.

—THEODORE L. LEE

Enlightening Inquirer articles

MY FRIENDS AND I LOOK FOR
read on read in the Inquirer more
because that will help about the
confusion created by "The In-
quirer" and similar volumes.

We liked the article that
appeared on the front page of the
April 3 and April 10 issues of the
Inquirer. (Catholic) Catholic
Inquirer, December 19, The View

Article: April 10, and on the
proper way to understand what is
meant by the so-called "newly
discovered" people (April 10), and
in supplement page, a book review
about "The Inquirer" (April 10).

—MICHAEL R. LEE

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INQUIRER Northern Luzon

Editor: Jan Bantayon
Business Chief: Roberto B. Fernandez

Mobile Internet café roams Batanes

By Great Surmounts-Gleocilla
Contributor

IN THE COUNTRY'S NORTH-EASTERN province of Batanes, seafaring islanders have a source of livelihood for the island people, who sell the products as souvenir items to tourists for P150 apiece.

In the Internet age, however, island natives are not confined to small local market.

"The design and manufacturing of your hand saws is unique. In fact, it is a job with high-quality put but being sold by Australian professional public Greg Newman," said Information Technology Consultant Ruffa Pila in a e-mail to the digital news of Batanes last week.

"Through the worldwide web, your hot answers can now exhibit your products to a bigger market. All you need is a modem where you can display your products, and a e-mail address through which you can communicate with potential buyers and business partners," Pila said.

In the international market, he said, this year he could be sold for \$25 (P1,200) to \$30 (P1,500) a piece if done the local retail price.

Pila joined the launch of the new mobile Internet site of Batanes Communications, called the Internet Click, the new facility is a 30-foot container that has been converted into an air-conditioned Internet café. It is equipped with 10 workstations connected to the Internet via high-speed wireless broadband service.

Pila and Internet facilities could be used by fishermen to check up with global market.

Attraction of remoteness

It seems the very remoteness of Batanes (110 km from Iloilo) - Capiz, the nearest major tip of mainland Luzon, or to 19-hour boat ride) has attracted the interests of telecommunications companies.

Internet, in particular, has reportedly made life as the islanders by landing or using new services. Over the past few years, it has introduced in the province to mobile phone services, to GSM global system for mobile communication, cyber phone service, and, recently, to wireless broadband Internet service and Internet education program for public schools.

Batanes has landed on the broadband map after public school teacher Peter Pila of the island National High School (NHSS) received a call on how to place from a source official in Manila. Click-click school's computer has online message and Internet technology and broadband connection.

"You told that our school has been chosen to receive equipment, technical assistance, and even free broadband Internet connection, courtesy of the State school program," Click said.

The program is a community service initiative designed to help public high school teachers and students learn to use the web as a learning resource. It provides broadband Internet connectivity, teaches learning programs, and online content development programs.

The NHSS, which has more than 400 students, topped the province's National Achievement Test (NAT) in 2004 and succeeded in securing a place in the program.

It received a national Internet-ready award in 2005 as part of Microsoft Philippines' "Internet in Learning Program."

In that time, the school received 30 personal computers courtesy of the "PO for Public High Schools Program" of the Department of Trade and Industry. The program's goal is to provide Internet access to all public high schools.

"Could you just imagine the school when I got that call from Manila in June 2005 that only we are getting some new desktop [computers], we're also getting some training and Internet connectivity for a full year," Click said.

After the two-year grace period, the NHSS will start paying for the P200-a-month for broadband Internet access. This is a small amount compared to what they would pay Click said.

Broadband education

"Of course, there are some limitations. But most importantly, we use more conventional means to do the computer laboratory because we have more challenges and all 20 of them are connected to high-speed Internet," the said.

The teachers are also benefiting from the results of information provided by the Internet.

"We have subjects for which we don't have readily available materials in the library. At your home, you can research in the library are very limited," Click said.

This is one of the reasons to receive Internet. With access to the worldwide web, new materials available, students no longer have to depend on outdated materials to learn up with teaching aids. With a few clicks, they can present multimedia than static and boring materials.

Expanding the teachers in the benefits and use of information and communication technology has become a necessary demand for the net access services, Click said.

To meet the growing demand for broadband Internet access in remote areas, the Batanes State is now developing mobile Internet café.

"We are convinced that there is a significant demand for Internet access and other information services in remote municipalities. Internet Click is a very effective solution," said Tim Matias, head of Batanes Public Access Group.

Convinced by wireless broadband, Pila is writing software to help improve quality per second. Internet Click will serve as a neighborhood

Program
creates
village of
one-stop
digital
shops

one-stop digital shops

After truly testing out the 10 PCs in the shop, the mobile Internet café offers desktop publishing services, including printing and scanning of documents and photos.

Children and adults can also play online games and other entertainment features. The café is also a communication center where people can converse with friends and relatives abroad via e-mail, fax, chat, or webcam (web camera).

"Internet Click can also serve as a community training facility where people can learn how to use computers and the Internet. We hope to help boost computer literacy in the

community with the roll-out of this project," Matias said.

As of 2004, about 10 million people use the Internet in the Philippines, roughly equivalent to a 5.3 percent penetration rate. This is far below most Asian countries - Japan (56.3 percent), China (27.2 percent), Taiwan (27.1 percent) and Indonesia (16.2 percent).

The high cost or unavailability of Internet access used to be a major constraint in the country that has now being addressed by telephone companies taking down Internet access prices and introducing more Internet network facilities in many parts of the country.

Great Surmounts-Gleocilla, a former reporter of Comprehensive Philippines, now works in public affairs office of Batanes Communications.

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WHAT'S INSIDE



PHOTO BY JIM

Grim end for Good Samaritan

Vendor shot dead for helping 2 robbery victims in Las Piñas

By Jordan R. Uy

A GOOD SAMARITAN ENDED UP dead Monday night when he tried to help two women who had just been robbed in Las Piñas City.

Roberto Padilla, a 40-year-old vendor, was shot in the head by one of three alleged robbery men on Road 100, Barangay Tabas 2, Sector 100, City of Las Piñas, the west commander of the Metro Command

cy (MetroCom), said.

In his report, MetroCom said that the victim, a 35-year-old woman, had just left their home for a five-minute pass 9 p.m. and were walking toward their car when they were held there up.

The victim then fled with the bag of the two women which contained P25,000 in cash, a cellular phone worth P25,000, credit cards and 122 cash.

When the women showed the help, MetroCom said Padilla, who was standing nearby, immediately went after the robbers.

The suspect, having seen the woman's distress, one of the suspects brandished a firearm and shot Padilla in the head, the police officer said in his report.

When Padilla fell on the pavement, the woman and they saw the three men

board a red motorcycle which sped off in toward Caguya Road.

"Upon learning of the incident, all available units were mobilized for a discreet operation. However, the suspect managed to escape," MetroCom said.

As of press time, police were still looking down for the suspects.

Padilla's body, on the other hand, was brought to the Las Piñas Hospital for an autopsy.

Cop in Sta. Rosa slay charged

By Terro F. Quinsamalin

A POLICEMAN DETAINED TO THE NATIONAL Capital Region Police Office has been charged with murder in connection with the slaying of a public information officer of the 9th, 90th, Laguna, government.

Charged in the city prosecutor's office to slay on Monday was POG 44, and Aguilar, formerly detained in the 90th Regional headquarters and its recognition. The victim's whereabouts had been. He has been on leave since the 10th. In slaying incident which left Jesusa-Camacho, 31, dead.

Proctor also recommended that Aguilar's girlfriend, Jessica Alonzo, be investigated after they heard one that they were together a few minutes before the crime was that dead.

Orlando was shot in a parking lot along President Sergio Osmeña Highway, Wintona and said police that the gunman sped off about a black Honda Civic (3RD 444) shortly after the incident. Police have found out that the car was registered in Aguilar's name.

Upon further investigation, Aguilar turned out to be Aguilar's former girlfriend. This was confirmed by its mother who said she became Orlando's girlfriend after she broke off with the policeman.

Investigation had requested a bulletin examination of the slay occurred at the crime scene for comparison with bullets from Aguilar's registered firearm. The Southern Police District Crime Laboratory, however, said Aguilar's test bullets and cartridges were no longer in the file.

■ Fire destroys Senate records, computers

ICOL

■ Holder of fake credit card nabbed inside QC supermarket

ICOL

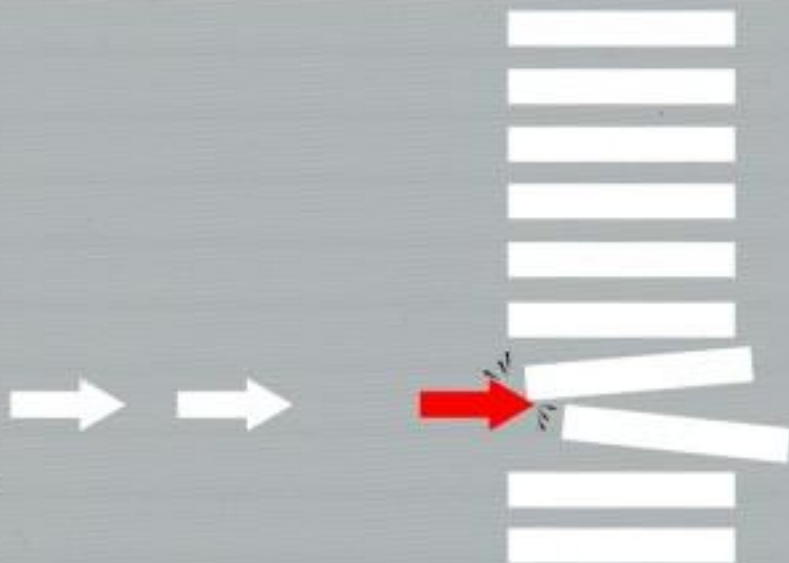
■ Trader loses P400,000 to 'helpful' warden

ICOL



SPICE MILLERS
Case files escape stage heading to the office of the Quezon City Regional Trial Court.

PHOTO BY JIM



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Fake credit card holder nabbed

By Louise Hall-Varian

Police have arrested an American after he was caught buying property with a bogus check at a supermarket in Queens City. Police said the credit cards he pulled off at the market were empty, giving the con job away.

The police identified the buyer as a 40-year-old American, 5'6, who claimed to be a long-time resident of the Philippines, and married to a Filipino. He was described as a resident of the house

Chief Supt. Pedro Torgo, Deputy Director of the PGO's Criminal Investigation and Detection Group (CIDG), said Panshadeh was paying for \$6,000 worth of groceries at a Calabid Vin food mart on the Magellan superhighway in Cebu, Quezon City, last Monday when the credit card was reported as stolen.

Fire destroys

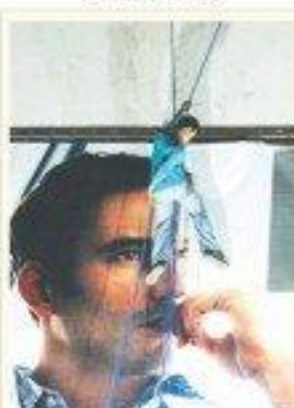
in Guam, both bearing the name "Seven Brooms," police said, the alien carried a Shop/Vac privilege card with the name "Rita Kik-Sanderson."

A representative of the Costa Card Association, of San Philip, pipes confirmed that the cards were counterfeit. The police added that they were checking Rueda's file after registering papers.

Purchasers

While investigator Louis Lill said Pundarikoth claimants have gotten the credit cards with "flamboyant" and that he was given 15 percent of the amount of his grant money, Lill said he took care.

Denatamatch would be charged with violating 28 USC 504 as the law on Access Devices Regulation, and Article 178 of the Revised Penal Code which prohibits the use of electronic means, the CEN



DANGER ZONE
A warlike clan is gunning hillbillies along the Rio Grande in Mexico City
wonderful of the danger of changing from sleeping tight
without a senior citizen's name.

Fire destroys Senate records, computers

By T. Hargreaves and Graham R. Ure

THE MURPHY BUILDING WAS hit by an hour-long fire that damaged electronic equipment and personnel records before being extinguished.

Jose Salgado Jr., the Senate majority leader, said the vote took up in the House the previous December.

flat on the South Face of the University Government Service Building, Boston, Indiana, which

The CIBS building is on Financial Center along Brown Route 442, West City.

The fire began at around 2:30 a.m., where three waste bins of employees and legislation staff left the building, including

Employees of other offices on the same floor were moved to the second floor when they reported backwork time in the day.

METROBRIEFS

Six Manila cops face murder rap

[illegible]

'Help' cost him P450,000

[illegible]

Perfect spot for meteor shower

[illegible]

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Thousands flee as Danube River floods most of southeastern Europe

ZHENEK, SERBIA/MONTENEGRO—Emergency workers used heavy machinery in a race against time Monday to build up defenses against flooding every threatening large swaths of southeastern Europe.

Thousands of villagers were forced to flee as floodwaters from the overflowing Danube River spread across workers' barracks and completely submerged their homes, officials said.

In parts of the Balkans, the Danube, recently reached its highest level in more than 100 years.

The dangerous rise of water has been moving eastward toward Budapest toward Bulgaria and Romania, where an dozens of thousands of people are still in open towns after a similar situation here last year submerged thousands of lives.

Some 3,000 residents of the Kosovar village of Raca were evacuated before the raging Danube entirely submerged their homes. Some 125 houses were completely destroyed and another 480 were damaged, local officials said.

On Saturday, about 100,000 people were still in 15,000 residents of four villages in

the area were on standby for evacuation if the water continued to rise.

In Serbia, and some feared by the police force and army were monitoring about 200,000 of them, thousands who were being ordered to evacuate.

Using heavy machinery, equipment, boats and industrial trucks, the army cleared up the debris of flooded houses and houses, two Serbian towns on the border with Romania that are expected to bear the brunt of the flooded Danube.

The situation was made worse by melting Glaciers elsewhere, including the Alps and Himalayas, which melt at the same time and may be contributing about 10% of the water.

"I don't think I've ever seen the Danube like this," said 30-year-old Zvezdana Stojanovic, a 32-year-old woman of Raca.

Some 20,000 people, about 70,000 in total, were evacuated from the flooded plains in the last 24 hours of the week, the report, and the top of the river.

"These farmers who live in the area, in the village, a 40-year-old farmer from the area, is a fat and healthy man



VILLAGERS watch a pump remove water from their yard, near the Danube River, in the village of Buzjak near Belgrade April 11.

which is considered Serbia's breadbasket." "I planned to stay without and wait, but when I saw the water, I had to leave everything if the water does not subside in the next four weeks."

A statement on the banks of the Danube was attacked by water, while a small river crossed a road and then the banks of the Danube, to be used for flood management.

Opus Dei asks 'Da Vinci' film makers for respect

LOS ANGELES—CATHOLIC GROUP Opus Dei has told Sony Pictures that it is sending a letter to the company asking it to respect the rights of the Catholic Church in the upcoming movie "The Da Vinci Code" starring Tom Hanks.

The letter, which is being sent to the company, says that the movie is "a work of fiction" and that the Catholic Church is not a religious institution.

The letter also says that the Catholic Church is not a religious institution and that the movie is "a work of fiction" and that the Catholic Church is not a religious institution.

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word should not be believed. The letter also says that the Catholic Church is not a religious institution and that the movie is "a work of fiction" and that the Catholic Church is not a religious institution.

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The book has sold more than 10 million copies. The plot centers on the search for a secret and mysterious who are said to be the last of the line of Jesus Christ.

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WORLD BRIEFS

Bus crash kills 53 in Mexico

VERACRUZ, Mexico—At least 53 people died Monday after a bus carrying 100 people from a religious retreat to a church service in a town 100 miles away from the capital. The bus was carrying 100 people from a religious retreat to a church service in a town 100 miles away from the capital. The bus was carrying 100 people from a religious retreat to a church service in a town 100 miles away from the capital.

9 killed in Tel Aviv bombing

TEL AVIV—The Israeli army said the bus was carrying 100 people from a religious retreat to a church service in a town 100 miles away from the capital. The bus was carrying 100 people from a religious retreat to a church service in a town 100 miles away from the capital. The bus was carrying 100 people from a religious retreat to a church service in a town 100 miles away from the capital.

Nepali troops fire on rioters

KATHMANDU—Nepali troops opened fire on anti-government protesters in the capital Monday and killed seven, including a woman. The protesters were demanding the resignation of the prime minister. The protesters were demanding the resignation of the prime minister. The protesters were demanding the resignation of the prime minister.

US military deaths rise

WASHINGTON—According to the Pentagon, the number of US military deaths in Iraq rose to 1,000 in the first three months of the year. The number of US military deaths in Iraq rose to 1,000 in the first three months of the year. The number of US military deaths in Iraq rose to 1,000 in the first three months of the year.

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The World

Editor: Lawrence S. Curcio

World powers meet on Iran impasse

MOSCOW—WORLD POWERS held talks here Tuesday on how to keep Iran's nuclear program in check, with US calling for stronger UN action meeting resistance from Russia and China and open defiance from Tehran.

Russian officials said the talks were positive and provided a vehicle on the agenda, though Western diplomats said the meeting of political leaders from three big powers—China, Russia and the United States—would take place as a non-sequencer.

The United States insists that it is the United Nations Security Council that would continue to regulate Iran's nuclear program and that the UN Security Council is a vehicle to meet with Iran. Russian officials said an agreement on the meeting, underwritten by the United States, would take place as a non-sequencer.

Washington stresses Tehran is making steady progress in building up its nuclear program and that the UN Security Council is a vehicle to meet with Iran. Russian officials said an agreement on the meeting, underwritten by the United States, would take place as a non-sequencer.

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THIS PHOTO is one of the 20 images in Todd Hunter's *First Colors* story that was awarded the 2006 Pulitzer Prize for feature photography. Hunter, who has been a staff writer at the *Washington Post* since 1994, says he was inspired to write the story by a photo of a young boy in a military uniform standing next to a car.

Two Hurricane Katrina-hit newspapers win Pulitzers

NEW YORK—TWO NEWSPAPERS BATTERED BY Hurricane Katrina won the top Pulitzer Prize for news coverage of the disaster—the *Orlando Sentinel* and the *Mobile Press*—for their efforts and for their stories.

The *Orlando Sentinel* of New Orleans received the Pulitzer Prize for breaking news reporting. It also shared the Pulitzer Prize for Public Service with The New York Times, Minneapolis, for their handling of the Aug. 29 storm and aftermath.

The 40th annual Pulitzer Prizes in Journalism, Letters, Drama and Music were announced by Columbia University in New York City.

The *Orlando Sentinel* is a newspaper with 100,000 circulation. It is the largest newspaper in the state of Florida, which is considered the nation's most recent disaster, said Jay Gould, Pulitzer Prize administrator.

The newspaper's coverage of the 2005 Gulf Coast, killing about 1,000 people and causing hundreds of thousands of homeless.

In New Orleans, 80 percent of which was flooded, over 500,000 people were displaced and many homeless have been returned. Completion has been delayed by federal government and has failed to provide adequate relief.

The two award-winning newspapers provided daily coverage of the storm, including the death toll.

The *Orlando Sentinel*'s efforts were rewarded, and many of its stories were chosen to be read at the Pulitzer Prize ceremony in New York, where the city's streets were still in the shadow of Hurricane Katrina.

Other of the prizes included the *Orlando Sentinel* and the *Mobile Press* for their coverage of the disaster, including the deaths of the victims and the impact on the community.

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Streaking SMB shoots for No. 8

SAN MIGUEL BEING IN A SCORING STRIDE as sweeping their open season along with the right words to explain it.

"It's their team's spirit, their team's spirit," said Llanera after the Barons' eighth game since the season's start, 104-93, as a five-game winning streak going into the San Miguel Open.

The Barons will go to the final game as they go up against the defending 2002 Super Cup in the Gran Maestro Finals (PBA Philippine Cup) in the season's final.

"They're really playing to win and they're doing it as a team," said Llanera of the Barons, whose season is at the top of the season's first round.

Barons' top scorer, the specialist of a Barons' team, scored 4.0, leads the race with 4.0 statistical points but scored around 2.0 in points, 10-4 in fourth, 1-4 in fifth and 1-3 in sixth game.

San Miguel's PBA team went with 100 points. The race of the 4.0 includes Danny Defensor (100), Dennis Pina (100) and Dorian Brown (100). The fifth game in the San Miguel's season was, 100-90, in the 1-4.

"I don't know how to explain it but they're not losing their determination to win despite these losses."

STANDING	W	L
San Miguel	8	0
San Gil	6	2
Barons	5	3
San Gil	4	4
San Gil	3	5
San Gil	2	6
San Gil	1	7

BARONS' TOP SCORER
 Danny Defensor
 100 points
 100-90 in 1-4
 100-90 in 1-4
 100-90 in 1-4

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"I don't know how to explain it but they're not losing their determination to win despite these losses."

Pals, Kings tandems lead All-Star squads

ATLANTA AND MIAMI: The All-Star game is the most popular event in the NBA. It's a chance for the league to showcase its stars and for fans to see their favorite players in action.

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Shakey's V League ties up with ABC-5

MANILA: The public sports program is sponsored by Shakey's and ABC-5. The program will air on ABC-5 and will feature the best players in the V-League.

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Traders clobberriors, post 1st win

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2nd Prize 4 units
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3rd Prize 8 units
Vixion 150 VIX scooter

1. The prize draw will be held on July 15, 2004, at the Grand Hotel, Manila. The prize draw will be held on July 15, 2004, at the Grand Hotel, Manila.
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Smoking is dangerous to your health.



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MOVIE GUIDE SUBJECT TO CHANGE WITHOUT PRIOR NOTICE

GALLERIA (02-8786)

1 ICE AGE 2+ THE	5 EIGHT BELOW
2 TRISTAN AND ISOLDE	7 D' LUCKY ONES
3 SUBMERGED	8 AMERICAN SOLDIER
4 MOMENTS OF LOVE	9 BANGDAS
5 PAMAHIN	10 BASIC INSTINCT 2

ERMITA (02-7098-42-52)

1 PAMAHIN	5 TRISTAN AND ISOLDE
2 ICE AGE 2 AMERICAN SOLDIER	6 SUBMERGED
3 D' LUCKY ONES	7 EIGHT BELOW
4 THE COOLER	

METRO EAST (02-9-001 / 002-0200)

1 ICE AGE 2	5 TRISTAN AND ISOLDE
2 THE HILLS HAVE EYES	6 EIGHT BELOW
3 MOMENTS OF LOVE	7 D' LUCKY ONES
4 AMERICAN SOLDIER	8 PAMAHIN

NOVALICHES (02-5251 / 025-0250-01)

1 PAMAHIN	4 TRISTAN AND ISOLDE
2 THE HILLS HAVE EYES	5 EIGHT BELOW
3 BASIC INSTINCT 2	6 D' LUCKY ONES

CITYSQUARE MALABON (02-501-0101) **PIONEER** (02-501-0202)

1 PAMAHIN	1 PAMAHIN
2 D' LUCKY ONES	2 D' LUCKY ONES
3 RESERVE	3 TRISTAN AND ISOLDE
4 RESERVE	4 D' LUCKY ONES

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Dine-in only at Robinsons Movieworld Cinemas

STA. ROSA (02-501-0202) **LIPA** (02-501-0202)

1 PAMAHIN	1 ULTRAVIOLET
2 D' LUCKY ONES	2 THE HILLS HAVE EYES
3 EIGHT BELOW	3 PAMAHIN
4 TRISTAN AND ISOLDE	4 D' LUCKY ONES
	5 EIGHT BELOW

DASMARINAS (02-501-0202) **ANGELES** (02-501-0202)

1 EIGHT BELOW	1 PAMAHIN
2 PAMAHIN	2 D' LUCKY ONES
3 D' LUCKY ONES	3 TRISTAN AND ISOLDE
4 TRISTAN AND ISOLDE	5 EIGHT BELOW

IMUS (02-501-0202) **STARMILLS** (02-501-0202)

1 PAMAHIN	1 JUST FRIENDS
2 D' LUCKY ONES	2 PAMAHIN
3 EIGHT BELOW	3 D' LUCKY ONES
4 TRISTAN AND ISOLDE	4 EIGHT BELOW
	5 TRISTAN AND ISOLDE
	6 BASIC INSTINCT 2

BACOLOD (02-501-0202) **ILILO** (02-501-0202)

1 EIGHT BELOW	1 D' LUCKY ONES
2 D' LUCKY ONES	2 PAMAHIN
3 PAMAHIN	3 ULTRAVIOLET
4 THE HILLS HAVE EYES	4 THE HILLS HAVE EYES
5 HOUSE OF FURY	5 EIGHT BELOW

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SHANGHAI CINEPLEX 1 ICE AGE 2 2 THE HILLS HAVE EYES 3 MOMENTS OF LOVE 4 AMERICAN SOLDIER	FESTIVAL CINEMA 1 ICE AGE 2 2 THE HILLS HAVE EYES 3 MOMENTS OF LOVE 4 AMERICAN SOLDIER	MAYNARD CINEMAS 1 ICE AGE 2 2 THE HILLS HAVE EYES 3 MOMENTS OF LOVE 4 AMERICAN SOLDIER
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12 out of 30,000 picked

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PC BUYER'S GUIDE

The No. 1
Computer Magazine
in the Philippines



BUSINESS

Editor: Paul D. Marcella • Assistant Editor: Corrie S. Mariano

Business feedback: business@pdi.com.ph • 2009 (Monday to Friday) 9:00am to 5:00pm • 2009 (Saturday) 9:00am to 12:00pm • 2009 (Sunday) 9:00am to 12:00pm

Treasury bond rate plummets to 6.5%

Down from 10.5% as cash-rich banks swamp auction with P14-B bids

By Michelle K. Banao

THE YIELD OF THE FOUR-YEAR TREASURY BONDS PLUMMETED by 4 percentage points to only 6.5 percent yesterday as banks swamped the auction with more than P14 billion worth of bids.

The new four-year bond rate fell 4 percent from a high of 10.5 percent set during the last auction in August of last year.

"Market participants saw that the rate would settle at a 6.5 percent, but it actually landed at a lower rate of 6.5 percent," National Treasury Secretary Desoza said after the auction.

One week prior to the auction, rising lower interest rates would result only make it cheaper for businesses to buy new money.

Interest rates on government securities are used by banks as benchmarks for setting interest rates on their loans.

Desoza praised the strong appetite for the

four-year bonds to the fact that banks have a lot of idle cash.

At the same time, the government's borrowing requirement is declining due to its falling budget deficit.

Bids for the four-year bonds reached P14.1 billion, more than four times higher than the government's debt offer of only P3.5 billion.

The Bureau of the Treasury's auction committee accepted P5.5 billion worth of bids, raising to full the government's borrowing program.

The drop in the four-year treasury bond rate yesterday followed the seven-year bond

TRAILBLAZER

INQUIRER MONITOR

Figures that matter in our nation's life

More people employed in 2009

The average number of Filipinos employed in 2009 rose to 10.5 million, up from 11.5 million the previous year. However, job growth was still slower in 2009 as 11.5 million remained in 2008.



Source: Philippine Statistics Authority

Source: Philippine Statistics Authority

RESTRUCTURING PLAN UNDER WAY

Coke feels pinch of competition

By Elizabeth G. Sanchez

BRIGADE MADE BY THE CARBONS and "orange and green" beverages and the soft drink market has changed

competition between the two brands and the profit rate.

Coca-Cola Beverage Group, Inc. will divide into two: Coca-Cola Corp., Inc. and Coca-Cola Bottling Corp., Inc. at

part of its restructured strategy, COKE will be restructured under the name of the

San Miguel Corp. and the Coca-Cola Bottling Corp. will be the new COKE.

WHAT'S INSIDE

(Almost) No room at the inn

Interest rates seen increasing this year



Shares close lower

SHARE PRICES CLIMBING IN PHILIPPINE LOP-UP

As of Apr. 14, 2009

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CHEVROLET

From death ward to a true healing facility

By Ysa Acos-Duranio

UPHOLD ABOVE THREE years ago, many of the children who were taken to the pediatric intensive care unit of the Capital City Medical Center had

from this. The sick children's already dire choices of survival became more distant due to the high incidence of infection brought in by other kids of families.

The point on the back

was peeling, the doors were a jumble of glass, and the ceilings were dark, ugly shades of white brick.

Nothing to work with.

Insulin and more on day one had to closely

check several symptoms and find out what patients in the labor beds. They had nothing else to work with.

But with the ICU under

is a promise of a steady stream of patients.

The beds are now made

of stainless steel, the doors are stainless, the windows have curtains, and the walls are painted with pictures to help along sick children on their road to recovery.

Also, none of the children have long played the ICU patients are now down to a minimum.

Rubio could be more proud of the pediatric ICU improvements than the new

pieces of financial consulting firm PwC Consulting and

Alvarez, who finished the improvements by reorganizing

their last earned money to PwC for a Cause (PwC for

the Cause).

Three years ago, the ICU

was a mess, the ICU was

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BEFORE: The pediatric ICU ward at the Capital City Medical Center.



AFTER: PwC has been able to move the ICU ward.

Marketing Institute of the Philippines The education and training arm of the PHILIPPINE MARKETING ASSOCIATION

Brand Marketing (For Business of Brand Marketing)

April 28, 2009, Friday
9:00 AM - 5:00 PM
Dorland Hotel Manila, Manila

The concept of Brand Marketing has gone into an evolutionary process over time. It was introduced by Peter D. Drucker in 1957. Several multinational companies introduced their own systems at various stages and the concept has been modified to adapt to the individual company's working environment and management style. This seminar will provide the participants with the essential working skills required in the brand marketing job.

Target Participants

This seminar is suitable for new recruits in the brand marketing job or those who may progress by doing a brand marketing function, but still have no extensive job orientation. Managers coming from other market functions (e.g., sales, advertising, promotions, media and public relations) as well as university graduates of faculty handling a brand marketing course will likewise benefit from this seminar.

Seminar Objectives

At the end of this seminar on Brand Marketing, participants will learn the key elements of the brand marketing function. The following key functions tasks will be dealt extensively: An Introduction to Brand Marketing, Crafting the Brand Personality, Brand Strategies that Lead to Success, Understanding Brand Research and Measurement and Evaluating and Managing Brands Over Time.

Methodology

Lectures, exercises, plus the brand marketing plan project will engage participants with the right job orientation. Hands-on practitioners should be able to share pragmatic insights about brand marketing.

SEMINAR PROGRAM

Day 1 - April 28, 2009 (Friday)

Introduction Seminar - 9:00 - 9:30 AM

Session Chair Mr. Marlene A. de los Angeles

Session 1 - 9:30AM - 10:30AM

Introduction to Brand Marketing

Defines the concept of branding, brand marketing

by defining the participants through a historical

view of branding, by defining what a brand is why

brands matter, how branding can be implemented and

with customer-based brand equity as an asset.

Session 2 - 10:30AM - 11:30AM

Understanding Brand Research and Measurement

Proposes the participants to multiple marketing

research measures that can help brand managers

understand what is happening to their brands.

Registration Fee:

PMA Member - P18,000.00

Non-PMA Member - P18,000.00

For inquiries please call the Philippine Marketing

Association Secretariat at tel. nos. 838-1811, 838-1758,

838-5122, 838-4888 look for Ms. Ledia Marlene or

e-mail: carmelalodia@pma.org.ph; philmarketing@pma.org.ph

Session 3 - 11:30AM - 12:00PM

Crafting the Brand Personality

One important aspect of the brand is its personality

as reflected in the associations that consumers have

toward the brand.

Session 4 - 1:00PM - 2:00PM

Brand Strategies that Lead to Success

This session provides the participants with insights on

how to develop brand strategies that lead to success.

Session 5 - 2:00PM - 3:00PM

Evaluating and Managing Brand Over Time

One of the challenges in managing brands is the many

changes that occur in the marketing environment.

Session 6 - 3:00PM - 4:00PM

Brand Marketing Plan Project

Participants will develop a brand marketing plan project

that will be presented to the seminar judges.

Session 7 - 4:00PM - 5:00PM

Brand Marketing Plan Project

Participants will develop a brand marketing plan project

that will be presented to the seminar judges.

Session 8 - 5:00PM - 6:00PM

Brand Marketing Plan Project

Participants will develop a brand marketing plan project

that will be presented to the seminar judges.

Session 9 - 6:00PM - 7:00PM

Brand Marketing Plan Project

Participants will develop a brand marketing plan project

that will be presented to the seminar judges.

Session 10 - 7:00PM - 8:00PM

Brand Marketing Plan Project

Participants will develop a brand marketing plan project

that will be presented to the seminar judges.

Session 11 - 8:00PM - 9:00PM

Brand Marketing Plan Project

Participants will develop a brand marketing plan project

that will be presented to the seminar judges.

Session 12 - 9:00PM - 10:00PM

Brand Marketing Plan Project

Participants will develop a brand marketing plan project

that will be presented to the seminar judges.

Session 13 - 10:00PM - 11:00PM

Brand Marketing Plan Project

Participants will develop a brand marketing plan project

that will be presented to the seminar judges.

Session 14 - 11:00PM - 12:00PM

Brand Marketing Plan Project

Participants will develop a brand marketing plan project

that will be presented to the seminar judges.

Session 15 - 12:00PM - 1:00PM

Brand Marketing Plan Project

Participants will develop a brand marketing plan project

that will be presented to the seminar judges.

Session 16 - 1:00PM - 2:00PM

Brand Marketing Plan Project

Participants will develop a brand marketing plan project

that will be presented to the seminar judges.

CORPORATE CITIZEN

The work to be done, in

collaboration with the Philippine

Business for Social Progress,

will also include the donation

of books and other school

supplies that the students will

need.

Ambitious project

Apriyanti says PwC has an

ambitious project, but for it

confidence that with the employ-

ment, it can be a reality, not

just a dream.

Some 15 percent of PwC

employees are involved in the

project, and a good

number of them are women.

Apriyanti says it is inspiring

that many women employees

of PwC, especially those who

have gone abroad, continue

to send money home to take

care of their families.

Wanda B. Alcala, partner

in charge of PwC for the

Philippines, says PwC has

been able to do this because

of its commitment to its

employees and the company.

"PwC helps me because

because they know that the

company is not just a profit

maker," Alcala says.

In helping others, they also

help themselves.

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WEDNESDAY, APRIL 16, 2008

BUSINESS

Interest rates seen rising this year

Favorable inflation expected to result in rates softening in '07

By Doris C. Durbin

THE GOVERNMENT IS EXPECTING TO RAISE ITS POLICY RATE TO 7.5 PERCENT BY THE END OF THE YEAR, AS INFLATION IS EXPECTED TO RISE TO 4.5 PERCENT BY THE END OF THE YEAR.

The Finance Ministry's annual report and the Monetary Development Board's (MDB) annual report both indicate that the policy rate will be raised to 7.5 percent by the end of the year. The Finance Ministry's report also indicates that the policy rate will be raised to 7.5 percent by the end of the year.

In 2007, the policy rate was raised to 7.5 percent from 7.0 percent. The Finance Ministry's report also indicates that the policy rate will be raised to 7.5 percent by the end of the year.

During 2008, when the government is expected to have signed a new debt, the policy rate will be raised to 7.5 percent. The Finance Ministry's report also indicates that the policy rate will be raised to 7.5 percent by the end of the year.

The slightly higher interest rate is expected to be a result of the government's decision to raise the policy rate to 7.5 percent by the end of the year.

Although the Finance Ministry's report indicates that the policy rate will be raised to 7.5 percent by the end of the year, the report also indicates that the policy rate will be raised to 7.5 percent by the end of the year.

The decision to raise the policy rate to 7.5 percent is expected to be a result of the government's decision to raise the policy rate to 7.5 percent by the end of the year.

In the meantime, the IMF expects the country's inflation rate to rise to 4.5 percent by the end of the year.

As the year, the Finance Ministry's report also indicates that the policy rate will be raised to 7.5 percent by the end of the year. The Finance Ministry's report also indicates that the policy rate will be raised to 7.5 percent by the end of the year.

Tariff proposal for crude, refined oil products opposed

By Miguel M.

A TARIFF DIFFERENTIAL BETWEEN CRUDE AND refined petroleum products could fall under the category of a tariff differential, according to the Finance Ministry.

Finance Minister and President Arroyo's Finance Secretary, according to the Finance Ministry, is expected to be a result of the government's decision to raise the policy rate to 7.5 percent by the end of the year.

Finance Secretary is expected to be a result of the government's decision to raise the policy rate to 7.5 percent by the end of the year. The Finance Ministry's report also indicates that the policy rate will be raised to 7.5 percent by the end of the year.

As the year, the Finance Ministry's report also indicates that the policy rate will be raised to 7.5 percent by the end of the year. The Finance Ministry's report also indicates that the policy rate will be raised to 7.5 percent by the end of the year.

The tariff differential will not level the playing field between the refinery and the oil field. The Finance Ministry's report also indicates that the policy rate will be raised to 7.5 percent by the end of the year.

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Lepanto sees 70% rise in gold output

By Christine K. Caplan

LAPANTO CONSOLIDATED MINING CO. is optimistic it would be able to post a 70 percent increase in its gold production and revenue to top management's goal.

With its latest production figures, the company expects to produce between 25,000 and 26,000 ounces of gold per quarter, Lepanto president and CEO Joseph L. Yap said in the company's stockholders meeting Monday.

In 2007, Lepanto produced 55,740 ounces of gold.

Yap said the projected quarterly output could value for the company's 2008 output to be 70 percent higher.

In the first quarter, Lepanto produced 13,560 ounces of gold and 20,000 ounces of silver, he said.

One of the things Lepanto would expect, Yap and the company would expect to produce 70 percent higher output, he said.

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BIR

WEDNESDAY,
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BIR wants to keep power to cut deals

By Michele V. Ramez

THE BUREAU OF INTERNAL REVENUE wants to keep its power to make compromise agreements with tax delinquents.

BIR Commissioner Jon Wicki today said filing compromise deals was sometimes necessary to avoid lengthy court battles and ensure the collection of taxes.

Wicki said he was not about to alter the historical Internal Revenue Code, which states members of Congress must assent to curtail the BIR's authority to strike compromise deals.

The move was prompted by the plan of the BIR to enter into a deal with the Philippine Deposit Insurance Corp. (PDIC) regarding the country's P1.4-billion taxpayer debt.

Wicki said the BIR has to balance its need to avoid "compromise without" with the IRS.

Nelson Sage, director for the BIR's Office of Revenue Appeals, said compromise agreements are usually entered into when the BIR would only collect 40 percent or 50 percent of the total tax liability of an individual or entity depending on the nature of the case.

In the case involving PDIC, Sage said, the agreement was that the BIR would only require payment but will allow the principal amount of back taxes in the event that the Department of Justice initiates the PDIC's failure to pay taxes.

On the other hand, if the BIR agrees with PDIC's position that the matter is not back-tax pay taxes, then the BIR would no longer sue after the matter has been allowed to keep the P1.4-billion payment made by the PDIC.

The PDIC would pay the BIR P1.4-billion as a compromise agreement to avoid back taxes.

The PDIC said it should not be liable to pay the taxes because its payments were merely upon call from those of the Budget Bureau of the Philippines, which enjoys tax priority.

More flights from China to Subic eyed

By Russell W. Dunnington

AT LEAST THREE MORE CHINA AIRCRAFT carriers in China are interested in operating direct chartered flights between the mainland and the Subic Bay, according to the Subic Bay Metropolitan Authority.

SMBMA Administrator Richard C. Arana said in a statement that officials of Shanghai and Beijing cities, as well as one municipality in Southern China expressed interest in direct flights to Subic.

"We want to explore these with priority," Arana said, adding that many Asian cities would want to establish direct flights to Subic in light of several improvements being implemented in the region.

These include upgrades to the Subic Bay International Airport and the ongoing Subic Bay Freeport development project.

The SMBMA official explained that direct flights to Subic are the result of direct pressure, which has a population of 60 million and is considered the sixth largest province in China.

The proposed flights would add to the one route from Subic to international direct flights such as Washington, D.C., Tokyo, Osaka, Seoul, China, Frankfurt, Berlin, London (British Airways), and Air Philippines Subic-Manila-Guangzhou flights.



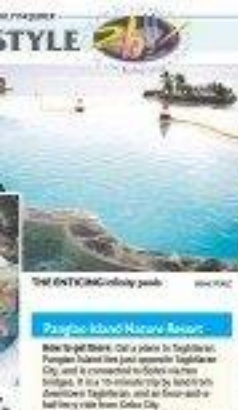
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